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ABSTRACT

This study of English (United Kingdom) local education authority (LEA) data reports on the number of pupils (ages 5-15) with disabilities in special schools and ordinary schools for 1993, 1994, and 1996. Results indicate: (1) the overall percentage of pupils in special schools decreased from 1.49 percent in 1992 to 1.46 percent in 1993, to 1.45 percent in 1994, and to 1.40 percent in 1996; (2) in 1996 the special school population declined to a total of 88,849; (3) between 1992-96, 71 out of 107 English LEAs actually decreased the percentages of pupils placed in special schools; (4) in 1996 children in Wandsworth (inner London) were eight times more likely to be placed in a special school than those in the outer London borough of Newham, indicating there are still wide variations in the percentages of pupils placed in separate special schools by different LEAs; (5) high segregation authorities included: Wandsworth, Lambeth, East Sussex, and Hackney; (6) low segregation authorities included Newham, Barnsley, Havering, and Cornwall; and (7) 58 percent of pupils with disabilities are now in ordinary schools across England. Statistical charts of the different LEAs' inclusion of children with disabilities in ordinary schools and in special schools are provided. (CR)

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A trend towards inclusion

Statistics on special school placements & pupils with statements in ordinary schools England 1992–96

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Summary

1 Pupils in English special schools 1993, 1994 & 1996

- The long-term trend towards including disabled pupils in mainstream schools is confirmed by these latest statistics on special school placements by English LEAs.
- In 1996 the special school population declined to 88,849, or 1.40% of all 5-15 year olds – the lowest ever percentage for England.
- The national rise in special school placements between 1991-92 to 1.49% can now be seen as a 'blip' in the overall trend to reduce segregation over the last 15 years – at least for the time being.
- There are still wide variations across LEAs in the percentages of pupils they place in special schools. The report shows that in 1996 children in **Wandsworth** in inner London were eight times more likely to be placed in special school than those in the outer London Borough of **Newham**.
- The four LEAs with the smallest proportion of their pupils in special schools in 1996 were **Newham** 0.32%, **Barnsley** 0.40%, **Havering** 0.54% and **Cornwall** 0.57%. **Barnsley**, **Cornwall** and **Havering** have regularly been near or at the top of this league in recent years, but **Newham** has jumped into top place in the table for the first time.
- By contrast the four highest segregating authorities in 1996 were **Wandsworth** 2.67%, **Lambeth** 2.44%, **East Sussex** 2.36% and **Hackney** 2.31%. Since 1992 these four LEAs have consistently led this table of highest percentages of pupils in special schools, though not always in the same position.
- The gradual trend towards including disabled pupils in ordinary schools was also shown by the high number of LEAs that actually decreased the percentages of pupils they placed in special schools between 1992 and 1996 – 71 out of the total of 107. **Hackney**, mentioned above, appeared by 1996 to be making a new effort to reduce its high level of segregation.

2 Pupils with statements in ordinary schools

- In 1994, for the first time, a majority of pupils with statements – 51.70% – were placed in ordinary schools in England. From 1983 when statements were first introduced, to 1993, it has always been a majority of statements in special schools.
- By 1996, 58.45% of all pupils with statements were in ordinary schools.
- **Newham** LEA took over the number one position in 1996 with 89.20% of its pupils with statements in the mainstream. The lowest was **Coventry** with 28.07%.
- In 1993, **Cornwall** had the highest percentage of pupils with statements in ordinary schools – 85.51% – and was the only LEA above 80%. By 1996 the 'over 80% group' had grown to six: **Newham** 89.20%, **Cornwall** 88.77%, **Barnsley** 87.45%, **Cumbria** 84.46%, **Camden** 81.99% and **Havering** 81.67%.
- There were just two LEAs below the 30% mark of pupils with statements in ordinary schools in 1996 – **Coventry** 28.07% and **Dudley** 29.50%.

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English LEAs statistics for 5-15 year olds 1993, 1994 & 1996

1 Pupils in special schools
2 Pupils with statements in ordinary schools

Introduction

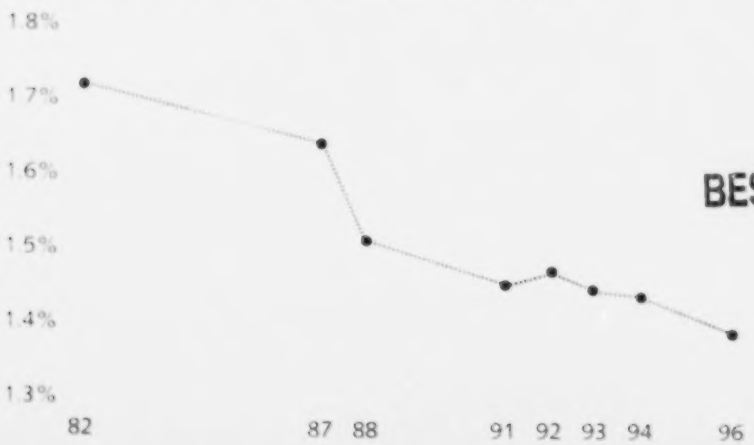
This is the fifth analysis based on the official Department for Education and Employment (DfEE) data of the percentages of pupils between five and 15 years old in English special schools. It follows the previous analyses conducted by Will Swann between 1982 and 1991; and from 1992 to 1996 by myself. This latest analysis for CSIE also builds on the percentages of pupils between five and 15 years with statements in ordinary schools first reported in the fourth analysis. It continues the analysis from 1992 to 1993, to 1994 and to 1996, but misses out 1995 as the full data set used in other years was unavailable for this year; the DfEE could not provide data on the imports and exports of special school children between LEAs for 1995. As the formula requires these figures for strict comparability between years, no data was analysed for 1995. (See Appendix 3 for formula used).

As in the last CSIE report* of statistics for 1988-92, the available data has not allowed a breakdown into primary and secondary age pupils. This means that comparisons with the earlier primary and secondary breakdowns are still not possible. The data available for 1993, 1994 and 1996 also did not allow a breakdown of statements in ordinary schools into those children in special classes and those in ordinary classes. The comparison is therefore only for children with statements in ordinary school overall.

* *Segregation and Inclusion. English LEA Statistics 1988-92*, published 1994

There have been continuing doubts about the accuracy of the data released by the DfEE based on LEA returns to the DfEE, following queries about the 1992 data from a few LEAs. Details of this are explained in Appendix 3. After much consideration, CSIE decided to publish the analyses but with a clear notice that there are uncertainties about data accuracy. As discussed in the concluding section, this report continues the monitoring exercise, but also highlights the need for a Government commitment to data quality and monitoring of inclusion practices.

Percentage of 5-15 year olds in special schools in England



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1 Percentages of pupils in special schools

A small decrease in special school placements

The average percentage of pupils in English special schools for 1993 was 1.46, for 1994 1.45 and for 1996 1.40, showing a reduction compared to the 1991 figure of 1.47% and the 1992 figure of 1.49%. This trend between 1993 and 1996 represents a return to the decreasing trend shown over the 1980s across the then 107 English LEAs. In 1992 the special school population was 88,952. In 1993 this declined slightly to 88,597 but increased again to 89,766 in 1994. However, the overall school population was increasing over this period, thus the declining percentage in special schools. In 1996 the special school population declined to 88,849 from 1994 while the overall school population increased.

The significance of these results are discussed further in the conclusion.

Highs and lows of special schooling

Tables 1 and 2 show the 20 LEAs with the highest and lowest percentages of pupils aged 5-15 years in special schools.

The same four LEAs had the highest percentages in special schools in both 1993, 1994 and 1996, though their order varied over these three years, **East Sussex**, **Hackney**, **Lambeth** and **Wandsworth** (see Table 1). Four of the 20 highest percentages in special schools in 1993, 1994 and 1996 were inner London LEAs – **Hackney** (2.89, 2.67 and 2.31); **Lambeth** (2.60, 2.58 and 2.44); **Wandsworth** (2.38, 2.40 and 2.67);and **Greenwich** (1.88, 2.10 and 2.11). The average for England was 1.46, 1.45 and 1.40.

TABLE 1 *The 20 LEAs with the highest % of pupils aged 5-15 in special schools in 1993, 1994 and 1996*

1993	*%*	*1994*	*%*	*199*	*%*
Hackney	2.89	Hackney	2.67	Wandsworth	2.67
E Sussex	2.64	Lambeth	2.58	Lambeth	
Lambeth	2.60	E Sussex	2.45		
Wandsworth	2.38	Wandsworth	2.40		2.31
Liverpool	2.35	Knowsley	2.32		2.22
Knowsley	2.32	St Helens	2.28		2.20
St Helens	2.28	Newcastle Tyne	2.27		2.15
Newcastle Tyne	2.16	Manchester	2.25		
Manchester	2.13	Liverpool	2.22		
Surrey	2.10	Surrey	2.13		
Doncaster	2.02	Greenwich	2.10		
Lewisham	1.97	Doncaster	2.07		
Kens & Chelsea	1.94	N Tyneside	1.99		
Sandwell	1.93	Gloucestershire	1.88	Wigan	
Tower Hamlets	1.91	Hampshire	1.86	Lewisham	
N Tyneside	1.90	Tower Hamlets	1.85		
Gloucestershire	1.89	Wigan	1.85		
Hampshire	1.89	Buckinghamshire	1.83		
Greenwich	1.88	Coventry	1.83		
Berkshire	1.83	Berkshire	1.83		
England	**1.46**	**England**	**1.45**		

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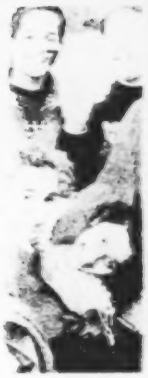


The metropolitan LEAs dominate Table 1, the top segregating authorities, and increase this domination in the most recent year, 1996. The highest percentages (all above 2%) for metropolitan LEAs were:

For 1993: **Liverpool** (2.35), **Knowsley** (2.32), **St Helens** (2.28), **Newcastle** (2.16), **Manchester** (2.13) and **Doncaster** (2.02).

For 1994: **Knowsley** (2.32), **St Helens** (2.28), **Newcastle** (2.27), **Manchester** (2.25), **Liverpool** (2.22), **Doncaster** (2.07).

For 1996: **Knowsley** (2.22), **Manchester** (2.20) **Newcastle** (2.15), **Liverpool** (2.13), **North Tyneside** (2.09).

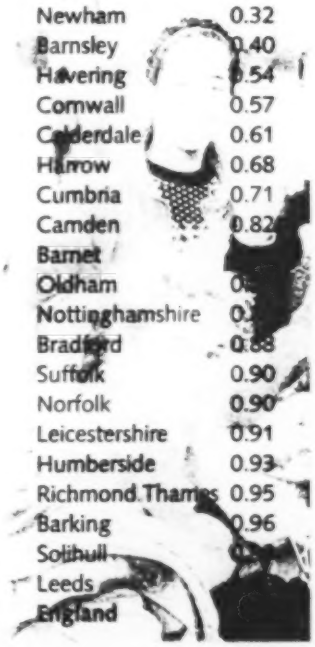
Only two county LEAs were above the 2% level for each of the three years – **East Sussex** (2.64, 2.45 and 2.36) and **Surrey** (2.10, 2.13 and 2.09). No outer London LEAs were in the top 20 segregating LEAs in either 1993 or 1994, and only **Waltham Forest** in 1996 (which might be attributed to a data error, see Appendix 3).

Table 2 shows that the same four LEAs had the lowest percentages in special schools in, 1993 and 1994 though their order varied from year to year – **Barnsley**, **Cornwall**, **Havering** and **Calderdale**. **Newham**, which was thirteenth in 1993, went into the top five lowest in 1994 and in 1996 it took over the number one position as the LEA with the lowest percentage of pupils in special schools in England.

The figures for 1996 for the four lowest segregating LEAs were: **Newham** 0.32, **Barnsley** 0.40, **Havering** 0.54 and **Cornwall** 0.57.

TABLE 2 *The 20 LEAs with the lowest % of pupils aged 5-15 in special schools in 1993, 1994 and 1996*

1993	*%*	*1994*	*%*	*1996*	*%*
Barnsley	0.41	Barnsley	0.43	Newham	0.32
Cornwall	0.53	Cornwall	0.51	Barnsley	0.40
Havering	0.68	Calderdale	0.70	Havering	0.54
Calderdale	0.73	Havering	0.71	Cornwall	0.57
Barking	0.79	Newham	0.79	Calderdale	0.61
Harrow	0.83	Harrow	0.79	Harrow	0.68
Bradford	0.86	Bradford	0.82	Cumbria	0.71
Leicestershire	0.87	Cumbria	0.83	Camden	0.82
Humberside	0.91	Barking	0.86	Barnet	
Solihull	0.92	Leicestershire	0.86	Oldham	
Cumbria	0.92	Oldham	0.90	Nottinghamshire	
Barnet	0.94	Suffolk	0.93	Bradford	
Newham	0.94	Humberside	0.93	Suffolk	0.90
Cambridgeshire	1.00	Solihull	0.95	Norfolk	0.90
Bromley	1.01	Barnet	0.95	Leicestershire	0.91
Suffolk	1.02	Richmond Thames	0.97	Humberside	0.93
Leeds	1.03	Leeds	1.02	Richmond Thames	0.95
Bexley	1.06	Bexley	1.02	Barking	0.96
Wiltshire	1.07	Wiltshire	1.03	Solihull	
Cheshire	1.08	Nottinghamshire	1.03	Leeds	
England	**1.46**	**England**	**1.45**	**England**	



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Barking was in the lowest five LEAs in 1992 and 1993, but slipped to ninth in 1994 and to eighteenth in 1996.

Newham also makes a dramatic move in the second section of this report where it is shown for the first time as the top LEA with the highest percentage of pupils with statements in ordinary schools in 1996 (see page 14).

Of the 20 LEAs with the lowest percentages of pupils in special schools, eight were county LEAs in 1993 and seven in 1994 and 1996; seven were outer London LEAs in 1993 and 1994 and five in 1996. For the three years 1993-96, **Harrow** consistently occupied the fifth position from the top in the least segregating LEAs. There were no inner London authorities in this group of low segregating LEAs in 1993 or 1994, and only one – **Camden** – in 1996.

The county LEAs with less than 1% in special schools for 1993, 1994 and 1996 were **Cornwall** (0.53, 0.51 and 0.57), **Humberside** (0.91, 0.93 and 0.93), **Leicestershire** (0.87, 0.86 and 0.91), **Cumbria** (0.92, 0.83 and 0.71). **Suffolk** had less than 1% in special schools for 1994 and 1996 (0.93 and 0.90). For 1996 **Nottinghamshire** (0.85) was also below 1%.

Metropolitan LEAs with less than 1% in 1993, 1994 and 1996 were **Barnsley** (0.41, 0.43 and 0.40), **Bradford** (0.86, 0.82 and 0.88), **Calderdale** (0.73, 0.70 and 0.61) and **Solihull** (0.92, 0.95 and 0.99). **Oldham**'s percentage was below 1% in 1994 and 1996 (0.90 and 0.85).

These data show that in 1993 children in **Hackney** were seven times more likely to be in special school than in **Barnsley**, and in 1994 they were six times more likely. For the most recent date, 1996, children in **Wandsworth** were eight times more likely to be in special schools than children in **Newham**. However, see over for Table 4 which shows **Hackney** to be making some new effort to decrease their special school population.

The differences between outer and inner London LEAs have continued from the 1992 analysis: in 1993 seven outer London LEAs were in the 20 low segregating authorities (Table 2) and six inner London LEAs were in the top 20 high segregating authorities (Table 1). In 1994, seven outer London LEAs were among the lowest segregating authorities, and five inner were among the 20 highest segregating authorities. Lastly in 1996, six outer London LEAs were among the 20 lowest segregating LEAs and five inner were among the highest segregating authorities.

Changes: increases and decreases

Of the LEAs showing the greatest increases over this period (see Table 3 opposite), **Sunderland** (0.08, 0.12 and 0.19) and **S. Tyneside** (0.05, 0.10 and 0.05) showed increases in each of the 3 year comparisons – over 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-96. **Wigan** showed increases over 1992-93 and 1993-94; **Lewisham** and **Cleveland** increases over 1992-93 and 1994-96; and **Barking**, **Hillingdon**, **Isle of Wight** and **Cambridgeshire**, **North Tyneside** and **Gateshead** over 1993-94 and 1994-96. The unusually large increase in 1994-96 for **Waltham Forest** can be attributed to an error in the figures of imports and exports (see Appendix 3 for details).

A total of 35 LEAs actually increased the percentage of pupils they placed in special schools over the period 1992-96 (see Appendix 1).

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Of the LEAs showing the greatest decreases over this period (see Table 4 opposite), three showed decreases consistently over the 3 year comparisons –

TABLE 3 *LEAs with the greatest increases in the % of their pupils aged 5-15 in special schools during the periods 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-96*

1992-93	%	1993-94	%	1994-96	%
Westminster	0.29	Greenwich	0.22	Waltham Forest	0.62
Liverpool	0.18	Hillingdon	0.13	Wandsworth	0.27
Hackney	0.13	Isle Wight	0.13	Wirral	0.20
Haringey	0.11	Manchester	0.12	Sunderland	0.19
Merton	0.11	Sunderland	0.12	Cambridgeshire	0.16
St Helens	0.10	Wigan	0.10	Northumberland	0.16
Redbridge	0.10	Newcastle Tyne	0.10	Lewisham	0.14
Hereford Worcs	0.09	Cambridgeshire	0.10	Brent	0.13
Hounslow	0.09	Southwark	0.10	[illegible]	
Lewisham	0.09	S Tyneside	0.10	[illegible]tyneside	
Sunderland	0.08	Sutton	0.10	[illegible]	
Wigan	0.08	N Tyneside	0.08	Dudley	
Tower Hamlets	0.08	Bromley	0.08	Cornwall	
Sandwell	0.08	Wakefield	0.07	Isle Wight	
Bexley	0.07	Staffordshire	0.07	Hillingdon	0.06
Bury	0.06	Barking	0.06	Bradford	0.06
Suffolk	0.06	Gateshead	0.06	Cheshire	0.05
Cleveland	0.06	Coventry	0.06	Bedfordshire	0.05
Tameside	0.05	Devon	0.06	S Tyneside	
Durham	0.05	Buckinghamshire	0.05	Leicester	
S Tyneside	0.05	Sheffield	0.05	Cleveland	
		Doncaster	0.05		

TABLE 4 *LEAs with the greatest decreases in the % of their pupils aged 5-15 in special schools during the periods 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-96*

1992-93	%	1993-94	%	1994-96	%
Southwark	0.50	Kens & Chelsea	0.27	Westminster	0.61
Hammersmith	0.47	Lewisham	0.24	Newham	0.47
Sutton	0.38	Hackney	0.22	St Helens	0.42
Lambeth	0.38	Oldham	0.20	Hackney	0.36
Manchester	0.33	E Sussex	0.19	Islington	0.30
Stockport	0.21	Waltham Forest	0.19	Redbridge	0.27
Newcastle Tyne	0.19	Islington	0.19	Camden	0.25
Islington	0.18	Newham	0.15	Norfolk	0.23
E Sussex	0.18	Nottinghamshire	0.14	Enfield	
Greenwich	0.18	Liverpool	0.13	Bolton	
Kingston Thames	0.18	Sandwell	0.12	Avon	
Sefton	0.16	Hammersmith	0.12	Bury	0.20
Devon	0.16	Richmond Thames	0.12	Haringey	0.19
Kens & Chelsea	0.15	Warwickshire	0.11	Nottinghamshire	0.19
Nottinghamshire	0.13	Cumbria	0.09	Tower Hamlets	0.17
Croydon	0.13	Lincolnshire	0.09	Havering	0.17
Staffordshire	0.12	Suffolk	0.09	Hampshire	0.15
Shropshire	0.12	Walsall	0.09	Devon	0.15
Doncaster	0.11	Rochdale	0.09	Buckinghamshire	
Hampshire	0.11	Trafford	0.08	Lambeth	
Newham	0.11				

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Islington (0.18, 0.19 and 0.30), **Nottinghamshire** (0.13, 0.14 and 0.19) and **Newham** (0.11, 0.15 and 0.47) for 1992-92, 1993-94 and 1994-96. **Hammersmith**, **East Sussex** and **Kensington and Chelsea** showed decreases over 1992-93 and 1993-94; **Devon**, **Hampshire** and **Lambeth** over 1992-93 and 1994-96; and **Hackney** over 1993-94 and 1994-96.

A total of 71 LEAs decreased the percentage of pupils they placed in special schools over the period 1992-96 (see Appendix 1).

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Appendix 1

% of pupils aged 5-15 belonging to each English LEA in special schools from 1992 to 1996

					Change from:			
	1992	1993	1994	1996	92-93	93-94	94-96	92-96
Inner London								
Camden	1.07	1.10	1.07	0.82	+0.03	-0.02	-0.25	-0.25
Greenwich	2.06	1.88	2.10	2.11	-0.18	+0.22	+0.01	+0.05
Hackney	2.76	2.89	2.67	2.31	+0.13	-0.22	-0.36	-0.45
Hammersmith	2.29	1.82	1.70	1.72	-0.47	-0.12	+0.03	-0.57
Islington	1.90	1.72	1.53	1.24	-0.18	-0.19	-0.30	-0.66
Kens & Chelsea	2.09	1.94	1.67	1.65	-0.15	-0.27	-0.02	-0.44
Lambeth	2.98	2.60	2.58	2.44	-0.38	-0.02	-0.14	-0.54
Lewisham	1.88	1.97	1.72	1.86	+0.09	-0.24	+0.14	-0.02
Southwark	2.10	1.60	1.70	1.62	-0.50	+0.10	-0.08	-0.48
Tower Hamlets	1.83	1.91	1.85	1.68	+0.08	-0.06	-0.17	-0.15
Wandsworth	2.47	2.38	2.40	2.67	-0.09	+0.02	+0.27	+0.20
Westminster	1.53	1.82	1.78	1.16	+0.29	-0.05	-0.61	-0.37
Outer London								
Barking	0.79	0.79	0.86	0.96	0.00	+0.06	+0.11	+0.17
Barnet	0.99	0.94	0.95	0.84	-0.05	+0.01	-0.11	-0.15
Bexley	0.99	1.06	1.02	1.05	+0.07	-0.03	+0.03	+0.06
Brent	1.17	1.18	1.19	1.32	+0.01	+0.01	+0.13	+0.15
Bromley	1.02	1.01	1.10	1.10	-0.01	+0.08	+0.01	+0.08
Croydon	1.44	1.31	1.31	1.24	-0.13	0.00	-0.08	-0.20
Ealing	1.47	1.50	1.47	1.45	+0.03	-0.03	-0.02	-0.02
Enfield	1.32	1.30	1.31	1.10	-0.02	+0.01	-0.21	-0.22
Haringey	1.33	1.44	1.41	1.22	+0.11	-0.04	-0.19	-0.11
Harrow	0.84	0.83	0.79	0.68	-0.01	-0.03	-0.11	-0.16
Havering	0.73	0.68	0.71	0.54	-0.05	+0.02	-0.17	-0.19
Hillingdon	1.52	1.48	1.61	1.67	-0.04	+0.13	+0.06	+0.15
Hounslow	1.28	1.37	1.39	1.35	+0.09	+0.02	-0.03	+0.07
Kingston Thames	1.38	1.20	1.24	1.21	-0.18	+0.04	-0.04	-0.17
Merton	1.39	1.50	1.45	1.37	+0.11	-0.05	-0.08	-0.02
Newham	1.05	0.94	0.79	0.32	-0.11	-0.15	-0.47	-0.73
Redbridge	1.33	1.43	1.46	1.19	+0.10	+0.04	-0.27	-0.14
Richmond Thames	1.12	1.09	0.97	0.95	-0.03	-0.12	-0.03	-0.17
Sutton	1.94	1.56	1.65	1.65	-0.38	+0.10	0.00	-0.29
Waltham Forest	1.42	1.39	1.20	1.82	-0.03	-0.19	+0.62	+0.40
England	1.49	1.46	1.45	1.40	-0.03	-0.01	-0.05	-0.09

continues

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Appendix 1

% of pupils aged 5-15 belonging to each English LEA in special schools from 1992 to 1996 (continued)

					Change from:			
	1992	*1993*	*1994*	*1996*	*92-93*	*93-94*	*94-96*	*92-96*
Metropolitan Districts								
Barnsley	0.45	0.41	0.43	0.40	-0.04	+0.02	-0.03	-0.05
Birmingham	1.66	1.69	1.73	1.68	+0.02	+0.04	-0.05	+0.02
Bolton	1.33	1.24	1.26	1.06	-0.09	+0.02	-0.20	-0.27
Bradford	0.86	0.86	0.82	0.88	0.00	-0.04	+0.06	+0.02
Bury	1.41	1.47	1.40	1.20	+0.06	-0.07	-0.20	-0.21
Calderdale	0.83	0.73	0.70	0.61	-0.10	-0.03	-0.09	-0.22
Coventry	1.76	1.77	1.83	1.82	+0.01	+0.06	-0.01	+0.06
Doncaster	2.13	2.02	2.07	1.94	-0.11	+0.05	-0.13	-0.19
Dudley	1.45	1.48	1.51	1.57	+0.03	+0.03	+0.06	+0.12
Gateshead	1.34	1.33	1.39	1.46	-0.01	+0.06	+0.07	+0.12
Kirklees	1.23	1.20	1.19	1.09	-0.03	0.00	-0.10	-0.14
Knowsley	2.41	2.32	2.32	2.22	-0.09	0.00	-0.10	-0.19
Leeds	1.03	1.03	1.02	1.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.02	-0.03
Liverpool	2.17	2.35	2.22	2.13	+0.18	-0.13	-0.09	-0.04
Manchester	2.45	2.13	2.25	2.20	-0.33	+0.12	-0.05	-0.25
N Tyneside	1.93	1.90	1.99	2.09	-0.03	+0.08	+0.10	+0.16
Newcastle Tyne	2.35	2.16	2.27	2.15	-0.19	+0.10	-0.12	-0.20
Oldham	1.11	1.10	0.90	0.85	-0.01	-0.20	-0.05	-0.26
Rochdale	1.59	1.60	1.51	1.48	+0.01	-0.09	-0.04	-0.11
Rotherham	1.77	1.81	1.78	1.74	+0.04	-0.04	-0.04	-0.03
S Tyneside	1.41	1.46	1.56	1.60	+0.05	+0.10	+0.05	+0.19
Salford	1.23	1.19	1.19	1.09	-0.04	+0.01	-0.11	-0.14
Sandwell	1.85	1.93	1.81	1.83	+0.08	-0.12	+0.03	-0.02
Sefton	1.74	1.58	1.54	1.40	-0.16	-0.04	-0.13	-0.34
Sheffield	1.20	1.15	1.20	1.16	-0.05	+0.05	-0.04	-0.04
Solihull	0.95	0.92	0.95	0.99	-0.03	+0.03	+0.04	+0.04
St Helens	2.18	2.28	2.28	1.86	+0.10	0.00	-0.42	-0.32
Stockport	1.96	1.75	1.72	1.67	-0.21	-0.03	-0.05	-0.29
Sunderland	1.43	1.51	1.63	1.82	+0.08	+0.12	+0.19	+0.39
Tameside	1.44	1.49	1.49	1.38	+0.05	0.00	-0.11	-0.06
Trafford	1.35	1.35	1.27	1.26	0.00	-0.08	-0.01	-0.09
Wakefield	1.39	1.36	1.43	1.46	-0.03	+0.07	+0.03	+0.07
Walsall	1.22	1.20	1.11	1.09	-0.02	-0.09	-0.02	-0.13
Wigan	1.66	1.74	1.85	1.87	+0.08	+0.10	+0.02	+0.21
Wirral	1.67	1.71	1.70	1.90	+0.04	-0.01	+0.20	+0.23
Wolverhampton	1.31	1.32	1.35	1.34	+0.01	+0.03	0.00	+0.03
England	1.49	1.46	1.45	1.40	-0.03	-0.01	-0.05	-0.09

continues

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% of pupils aged 5-15 belonging to each English LEA in special schools from 1992 to 1996 (continued)

					Change from:			
	1992	1993	1994	1996	92-93	93-94	94-96	92-96
County Councils								
Avon	1.81	1.75	1.69	1.49	-0.06	-0.06	-0.20	-0.32
Bedfordshire	1.40	1.39	1.38	1.42	-0.01	-0.01	+0.05	+0.02
Berkshire	1.83	1.83	1.82	1.77	0.00	-0.01	-0.05	-0.06
Buckinghamshire	1.81	1.78	1.83	1.69	-0.03	+0.05	-0.14	-0.12
Cambridgeshire	1.06	1.00	1.10	1.26	-0.06	+0.10	+0.16	+0.20
Cheshire	1.08	1.08	1.09	1.14	0.00	+0.01	+0.05	+0.06
Cleveland	1.36	1.42	1.45	1.50	+0.06	+0.03	+0.05	+0.14
Cornwall	0.51	0.53	0.51	0.57	+0.02	-0.02	+0.06	+0.06
Cumbria	0.89	0.92	0.83	0.71	+0.03	-0.09	-0.11	-0.18
Derbyshire	1.22	1.20	1.18	1.06	-0.02	-0.02	-0.12	-0.16
Devon	1.90	1.74	1.80	1.65	-0.16	+0.06	-0.15	-0.25
Dorset	1.66	1.63	1.59	1.50	-0.03	-0.04	-0.09	-0.16
Durham	1.28	1.33	1.32	1.32	+0.05	-0.01	-0.01	+0.04
E Sussex	2.82	2.64	2.45	2.36	-0.18	-0.19	-0.09	-0.46
Essex	1.37	1.36	1.36	1.31	-0.01	0.00	-0.04	-0.06
Gloucestershire	1.95	1.89	1.88	1.78	-0.06	-0.01	-0.10	-0.17
Hampshire	2.00	1.89	1.86	1.71	-0.11	-0.03	-0.15	-0.29
Hereford Worcs	1.46	1.55	1.54	1.46	+0.09	-0.01	-0.08	0.00
Hertfordshire	1.46	1.43	1.46	1.47	-0.03	+0.03	+0.01	+0.01
Humberside	0.93	0.91	0.93	0.93	-0.02	+0.02	0.00	+0.00
Isle Wight	1.54	1.54	1.67	1.73	0.00	+0.13	+0.06	+0.19
Kent	1.80	1.70	1.64	1.53	-0.10	-0.06	-0.11	-0.27
Lancashire	1.70	1.67	1.63	1.53	-0.03	-0.04	-0.10	-0.17
Leicestershire	0.84	0.87	0.86	0.91	+0.03	0.00	+0.05	+0.07
Lincolnshire	1.42	1.45	1.35	1.28	+0.03	-0.09	-0.07	-0.14
Norfolk	1.11	1.13	1.14	0.90	+0.02	+0.01	-0.23	-0.21
N Yorkshire	1.23	1.16	1.15	1.04	-0.07	-0.01	-0.11	-0.19
Northamptonshire	1.37	1.32	1.28	1.17	-0.05	-0.04	-0.11	-0.20
Northumberland	1.24	1.28	1.25	1.40	+0.04	-0.03	+0.16	+0.16
Nottinghamshire	1.30	1.17	1.03	0.85	-0.13	-0.14	-0.19	-0.45
Oxfordshire	1.21	1.24	1.23	1.27	+0.03	-0.01	+0.03	+0.06
Shropshire	1.20	1.08	1.12	1.09	-0.12	+0.04	-0.02	-0.11
Somerset	1.53	1.57	1.58	1.48	+0.04	+0.02	-0.10	-0.05
Staffordshire	1.59	1.47	1.53	1.55	-0.12	+0.07	+0.02	-0.04
Suffolk	0.96	1.02	0.93	0.90	+0.06	-0.09	-0.02	-0.06
Surrey	2.10	2.10	2.13	2.09	0.00	+0.03	-0.03	-0.01
Warwickshire	1.73	1.63	1.53	1.46	-0.10	-0.11	-0.06	-0.27
W Sussex	1.78	1.78	1.76	1.66	0.00	-0.01	-0.11	-0.12
Wiltshire	1.04	1.07	1.03	1.06	+0.03	-0.04	+0.03	+0.02
England	**1.49**	**1.46**	**1.45**	**1.40**	**-0.03**	**-0.01**	**-0.05**	**-0.09**

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2 Percentages of pupils with statements in ordinary schools

Just over half in the mainstream

The percentage of all pupils with statements in ordinary schools increased consistently over this period. In 1993, 47.7% of all pupils in England were with statements in ordinary schools. This is an increase of 5.6% from 1992 (42.1%). In 1994 the half-way mark was passed with 51.7% of all pupils with statements being in ordinary schools; and in 1996, 58.5% of all pupils were with statements in ordinary schools. This represents increases of 4.0 and 6.8% respectively.

The outer London Borough of **Newham**, which was a middle ranking LEA with 56.9% for 1992, became the first London LEA to have above 70% of pupils with statements in ordinary schools in 1994, and had the highest proportion ever of all LEAs in 1996 with 89.2%.

As Table 5 shows, nine of the top 20 LEAs in 1993 with highest percentages of pupils with statements in ordinary schools were county LEAs and six were outer London LEAs; the same nine county LEAs were in the top 20 LEAs in 1994, five were outer London LEAs and five were metropolitan. Eight of the top 20 LEAs in 1996 were county LEAs, six were metropolitan and four were outer London ones.

Of five LEAs with more than 70% of pupils with statements in ordinary schools in 1993, four were county LEAs (**Cornwall**, **Cumbria**, **Wiltshire** and **Suffolk**); the average for England in 1993 was 47.7%. In 1994 five of the seven above 70% were county LEAs (the same as 1993, plus **Norfolk**); and in 1996 seven of the seventeen above 70% were county LEAs.

Of the top 20 LEAs with the highest percentages of pupils with statements in ordinary schools in 1993, six were outer London LEAs; in 1994 five were outer London LEAs; and in 1996 four were outer London LEAs. Only one inner London

TABLE 5 *The 20 LEAs with the highest % of pupils aged 5-15 with statements in ordinary schools in 1993, 1994 and 1996*

1993	*%*	*1994*	*%*	*1996*	*%*
Cornwall	85.51	Cornwall	86.70	Newham	89.20
Barnsley	76.71	Cumbria	80.85	Cornwall	88.77
Cumbria	75.03	Barnsley	79.31	Barnsley	87.45
Wiltshire	73.36	Newham	74.10	Cumbria	84.46
Suffolk	72.00	Suffolk	73.89	Camden	81.99
Norfolk	69.24	Wiltshire	70.48	Havering	81.67
Shropshire	68.97	Norfolk	70.14	Harrow	78.60
Havering	66.09	Shropshire	69.97	Suffolk	77.07
Derbyshire	66.00	Camden	69.46	Calderdale	76.83
Harrow	63.31	Havering	69.42	Shropshire	75.32
Bury	63.22	Derbyshire	68.92	Derbyshire	73.75
Camden	61.96	Harrow	68.06	Leeds	73.00
Leeds	61.87	Bury	67.79	Norfolk	72.86
Cheshire	61.49	Leeds	64.81	Leicestershire	72.17
Hounslow	60.22	Kirklees	64.33	Kirklees	72.07
Richmond Thames	60.08	Leicestershire	63.53	Bury	72.05
Bromley	59.93	Cheshire	63.44	Bromley	70.05
Leicestershire	59.53	Bromley	63.41	Islington	69.91
Newham	58.82	Calderdale	62.69	Cheshire	68.97
Solihull	57.86	Richmond Thames	62.53	Salford	67.48
England	**47.72**	**England**	**51.73**	**England**	**58.45**

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LEA (**Camden**) was in the top 20 in 1993 and 1994. In 1996 another inner London LEA, **Islington**, joined the top 20 authorities with the highest percentage of pupils with statements in ordinary schools (69.9%). Five of the 17 LEAs with more than 70% in ordinary schools were metropolitan districts in 1996.

As Table 6 shows, ten metropolitan LEAs in 1993 and 1994 and 13 metropolitan LEAs in 1996 were amongst the 20 with lowest percentages of pupils with statements in ordinary schools. The remaining LEAs with the lowest were a mixture of London and county LEAs.

For both 1993 and 1994, **Nottinghamshire** had the lowest percentage of pupils with statements in ordinary schools. It was fourth lowest in 1996. However, Appendix 1 and Table 2 show that **Nottinghamshire** had below average percentages for pupils in special schools (1.17% in 1993, 1.03% in 1994 and 0.85% in 1996). By comparison, **Coventry** and **Sandwell** with similarly low percentages of pupils with statements in ordinary schools, had above average percentages in special schools – **Coventry** had 1.77% in 1993 rising to 1.83% in 1994 and 1.82% in 1996; **Sandwell** had 1.93% in 1993 and decreasing to 1.81% in 1994 and rising slightly to 1.83% in 1996.

In 1996 a core group of 11 LEAs appear both in Table 1 (highest segregating LEAs) and Table 6 (lowest percentage of pupils with statements in ordinary schools) indicating a pattern in these authorities of assessment procedures leading to special school placement much more than to the mainstream. These 11 are: **Coventry**, **Sandwell**, **Manchester**, **Newcastle upon Tyne**, **Wandsworth**, **Hackney**, **North Tyneside**, **East Sussex**, **Knowsley**, **Waltham Forest** and **Liverpool**. This association between percentages in special schools and statements in ordinary schools will be discussed in the conclusion.

TABLE 6 *The 20 LEAs with the lowest % of pupils aged 5-15 with statements in ordinary schools*

1993	*%*	*1994*	*%*	*1996*	*%*
Nottinghamshire	16.48	Nottinghamshire	19.64	Coventry	28.07
Coventry	18.28	Sandwell	20.90	Dudley	29.50
Sandwell	20.61	Coventry	22.20	Sandwell	31.96
Liverpool	21.46	Manchester	23.53	Nottinghamshire	33.64
Enfield	24.06	Dudley	26.42	Manchester	34.74
E Sussex	24.75	Birmingham	27.33	Newcastle Tyne	36.22
Birmingham	25.32	Gateshead	28.44	Birmingham	37.67
Gateshead	25.33	Liverpool	29.26	Wandsworth	40.02
Waltham Forest	25.56	Enfield	30.48	Hackney	41.11
Manchester	26.50	Redbridge	31.63	Croydon	42.25
Redbridge	26.74	Newcastle Tyne	32.75	S Tyneside	42.53
Dudley	28.54	Haringey	33.21	Gateshead	42.63
Newcastle Tyne	28.74	Hereford Worcs	34.28	N Tyneside	43.07
Doncaster	29.14	Wandsworth	34.59	Ealing	43.23
Haringey	31.54	S Tyneside	34.73	Rochdale	43.27
Hereford Worcs	31.78	Waltham Forest	36.24	E Sussex	43.62
Hackney	32.21	Hackney	36.54	Knowsley	44.06
Lambeth	32.64	E Sussex	36.56	Waltham Forest	44.19
Sunderland	32.79	Sunderland	36.92	Liverpool	44.27
Isle Wight	33.01	Croydon	37.38	Trafford	44.34
England	**47.72**	**England**	**51.73**	**England**	**58.45**

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Appendix 2

% of pupils aged 5-15 belonging to each English LEA with statements in ordinary schools from 1992 to 1996.

					Change from:			
	1992	*1993*	*1994*	*1996*	*92-93*	*93-94*	*94-96*	*92-96*
Inner London								
Camden	63.50	61.96	69.46	81.99	-1.54	7.50	12.53	18.49
Greenwich	39.00	42.64	42.15	49.84	3.64	-0.49	7.69	10.84
Hackney	29.90	32.21	36.54	41.11	2.31	4.34	4.57	11.21
Hammersmith	36.70	49.69	55.85	59.47	12.99	6.17	3.62	22.77
Islington	42.40	47.81	58.87	69.91	5.41	11.06	11.04	27.51
Kens & Chelsea	32.40	38.60	46.07	50.75	6.20	7.47	4.67	18.35
Lambeth	27.10	32.64	38.44	44.46	5.54	5.80	6.02	17.36
Lewisham	34.40	39.17	47.41	50.90	4.77	8.24	3.49	16.50
Southwark	38.70	48.33	48.28	55.62	9.63	-0.04	7.34	16.92
Tower Hamlets	32.30	39.15	49.52	60.30	6.85	10.37	10.78	28.00
Wandsworth	35.30	38.17	34.59	40.02	2.87	-3.58	5.43	4.72
Westminster	40.10	37.59	46.63	60.10	-2.51	9.04	13.47	20.00
Outer London								
Barking	53.00	56.58	61.19	67.32	3.58	4.62	6.13	14.32
Barnet	42.30	47.45	53.64	66.78	5.15	6.19	13.14	24.48
Bexley	57.10	57.65	60.64	60.44	0.55	2.99	-0.19	3.34
Brent	39.40	45.59	47.14	54.36	6.19	1.55	7.22	14.96
Bromley	58.60	59.93	63.41	70.05	1.33	3.48	6.65	11.45
Croydon	38.70	37.23	37.38	42.25	-1.47	0.15	4.87	3.55
Ealing	35.40	47.23	54.20	43.23	11.83	6.96	-10.97	7.83
Enfield	18.10	24.06	30.48	64.79	5.96	6.42	34.31	46.69
Haringey	28.90	31.54	33.21	57.61	2.64	1.68	24.39	28.71
Harrow	60.80	63.31	68.06	78.60	2.51	4.75	10.54	17.80
Havering	60.50	66.09	69.42	81.67	5.59	3.33	12.25	21.17
Hillingdon	29.20	36.93	44.25	55.88	7.73	7.32	11.63	26.68
Hounslow	62.10	60.22	60.00	59.94	-1.88	-0.22	-0.06	-2.16
Kingston Thames	43.50	48.92	55.93	60.21	5.42	7.01	4.28	16.71
Merton	46.80	49.17	59.04	61.10	2.37	9.87	2.06	14.30
Newham	56.90	58.82	74.10	89.20	1.92	15.28	15.10	32.30
Redbridge	21.10	26.74	31.63	44.65	5.64	4.89	13.02	23.55
Richmond Thames	55.40	60.08	62.53	65.90	4.68	2.44	3.37	10.50
Sutton	38.30	47.95	49.08	52.67	9.65	1.13	3.60	14.37
Waltham Forest	25.30	25.56	36.24	44.19	0.26	10.68	7.95	18.89
England	**42.10**	**47.72**	**51.73**	**58.45**	**5.62**	**4.01**	**6.72**	**16.35**

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% of pupils aged 5-15 belonging to each English LEA with statements in ordinary schools from 1992 to 1996 (continued)

					Change from:			
	1992	*1993*	*1994*	*1996*	*92-93*	*93-94*	*94-96*	*92-96*
Metropolitan Districts								
Barnsley	67.30	76.71	79.31	87.45	9.41	2.60	8.14	20.15
Birmingham	25.80	25.32	27.33	37.67	-0.48	2.01	10.34	11.87
Bolton	32.20	37.64	42.31	64.54	5.44	4.67	22.22	32.34
Bradford	37.50	49.15	58.64	64.75	11.65	9.49	6.11	27.25
Bury	60.60	63.22	67.79	72.05	2.62	4.57	4.26	11.45
Calderdale	47.40	57.69	62.69	76.83	10.29	4.99	14.14	29.43
Coventry	17.00	18.28	22.20	28.07	1.28	3.92	5.86	11.07
Doncaster	22.90	29.14	38.73	61.64	6.24	9.59	22.91	38.74
Dudley	27.00	28.54	26.42	29.50	1.54	-2.12	3.08	2.50
Gateshead	26.20	25.33	28.44	42.63	-0.87	3.10	14.19	16.43
Kirklees	53.00	57.66	64.33	72.07	4.66	6.67	7.73	19.07
Knowsley	36.10	38.46	38.56	44.06	2.36	0.09	5.50	7.96
Leeds	60.00	61.87	64.81	73.00	1.87	2.94	8.19	13.00
Liverpool	16.30	21.46	29.26	44.27	5.16	7.80	15.02	27.97
Manchester	26.20	26.50	23.53	34.74	0.30	-2.96	11.20	8.54
N Tyneside	39.60	43.81	42.26	43.07	4.21	-1.55	0.81	3.47
Newcastle Tyne	27.10	28.74	32.75	36.22	1.64	4.01	3.47	9.12
Oldham	55.00	52.68	37.76	45.82	-2.32	-14.92	8.06	-9.18
Rochdale	39.10	36.25	39.15	43.27	-2.85	2.91	4.12	4.17
Rotherham	37.00	38.45	43.60	47.05	1.45	5.15	3.45	10.05
S Tyneside	36.50	35.36	34.73	42.53	-1.14	-0.63	7.80	6.03
Salford	41.80	53.44	51.08	67.48	11.64	-2.36	16.41	25.68
Sandwell	14.80	20.61	20.90	31.96	5.81	0.29	11.06	17.16
Sefton	39.80	45.54	52.97	59.48	5.74	7.43	6.51	19.68
Sheffield	46.80	49.30	50.98	59.04	2.50	1.68	8.06	12.24
Solihull	54.80	57.86	58.71	60.37	3.06	0.85	1.66	5.57
St Helens	31.20	40.36	51.17	65.50	9.16	10.81	14.33	34.30
Stockport	48.80	51.96	55.37	55.75	3.16	3.41	0.38	6.95
Sunderland	30.90	32.79	36.92	51.01	1.89	4.13	14.08	20.11
Tameside	51.60	54.74	56.05	57.47	3.14	1.31	1.42	5.87
Trafford	47.90	47.42	53.32	44.34	-0.48	5.90	-8.98	-3.56
Wakefield	31.60	39.16	43.43	53.62	7.56	4.26	10.19	22.02
Walsall	36.40	46.38	53.96	64.08	9.98	7.58	10.12	27.68
Wigan	50.40	45.17	52.10	58.66	-5.23	6.93	6.56	8.26
Wirral	43.10	44.03	45.73	46.48	0.93	1.70	0.75	3.38
Wolverhampton	41.70	47.90	51.08	55.62	6.20	3.18	4.55	13.92
England	**42.10**	**47.72**	**51.73**	**58.45**	**5.62**	**4.01**	**6.72**	**16.35**

continues

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% of pupils aged 5-15 belonging to each English LEA with statements in ordinary schools from 1992 to 1996 (continued)

					Change from:			
	1992	1993	1994	1996	92-93	93-94	94-96	92-96
County Councils								
Avon	35.50	40.91	45.66	61.83	5.41	4.75	16.17	26.33
Bedfordshire	41.60	52.12	55.19	55.50	10.52	3.07	0.31	13.90
Berkshire	36.50	40.40	43.69	51.38	3.90	3.29	7.69	14.88
Buckinghamshire	47.80	50.15	52.15	54.82	2.35	2.00	2.67	7.02
Cambridgeshire	54.90	53.39	55.33	61.11	-1.51	1.94	5.77	6.21
Cheshire	60.00	61.49	63.44	68.97	1.49	1.95	5.52	8.97
Cleveland	42.70	41.31	41.14	49.32	-1.39	-0.17	8.18	6.62
Cornwall	83.70	85.51	86.70	88.77	1.81	1.20	2.07	5.07
Cumbria	70.20	75.03	80.85	84.46	4.83	5.82	3.61	14.26
Derbyshire	62.40	66.00	68.92	73.75	3.60	2.92	4.82	11.35
Devon	53.10	53.85	54.00	58.06	0.75	0.16	4.06	4.96
Dorset	34.70	39.23	45.62	48.40	4.53	6.40	2.78	13.70
Durham	43.30	47.59	55.83	65.43	4.29	8.24	9.60	22.13
E Sussex	11.30	24.75	36.56	43.62	13.45	11.81	7.06	32.32
Essex	38.20	40.44	44.11	48.24	2.24	3.68	4.13	10.04
Gloucestershire	37.90	46.20	47.05	52.79	8.30	0.85	5.74	14.89
Hampshire	43.50	43.16	47.65	50.69	-0.34	4.49	3.04	7.19
Hereford Worcs	27.50	31.78	34.28	53.48	4.28	2.50	19.20	25.98
Hertfordshire	44.30	49.04	50.30	56.41	4.74	1.26	6.10	12.11
Humberside	47.50	51.46	55.56	62.70	3.96	4.10	7.14	15.20
Isle Wight	33.80	33.01	60.32	47.09	-0.79	27.31	-13.22	13.29
Kent	34.30	40.42	46.37	55.87	6.12	5.95	9.49	21.57
Lancashire	45.80	52.26	56.17	63.57	6.46	3.91	7.40	17.77
Leicestershire	56.40	59.53	63.53	72.17	3.13	4.00	8.64	15.77
Lincolnshire	52.70	55.96	62.51	66.33	3.26	6.55	3.82	13.63
Norfolk	64.90	69.24	70.14	72.86	4.34	0.90	2.72	7.96
N Yorkshire	49.00	52.44	55.08	61.86	3.44	2.64	6.79	12.86
Northamptonshire	37.20	39.96	48.35	58.15	2.76	8.40	9.80	20.95
Northumberland	45.40	50.36	54.99	56.58	4.96	4.63	1.59	11.18
Nottinghamshire	13.10	16.48	19.64	33.64	3.38	3.16	14.00	20.54
Oxfordshire	27.70	41.53	51.81	58.50	13.83	10.28	6.69	30.80
Shropshire	67.40	68.97	69.97	75.32	1.57	1.00	5.35	7.92
Somerset	47.00	47.72	49.15	57.95	0.72	1.43	8.79	10.95
Staffordshire	32.50	34.95	46.74	49.44	2.45	11.79	2.70	16.94
Suffolk	71.30	72.00	73.89	77.07	0.70	1.90	3.18	5.77
Surrey	46.60	47.61	50.64	49.95	1.01	3.03	-0.69	3.35
Warwickshire	28.80	34.20	42.17	50.11	5.40	7.97	7.94	21.31
W Sussex	32.30	34.33	40.94	49.97	2.03	6.61	9.03	17.67
Wiltshire	76.50	73.36	70.48	65.76	-3.14	-2.88	-4.72	-10.74
England	**42.10**	**47.72**	**51.73**	**58.45**	**5.62**	**4.01**	**6.72**	**16.35**

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Conclusion

This study of English LEA data reports on the number of pupils in special schools and with statements in ordinary schools as part of this monitoring exercise which goes back to 1982. However, any comparisons which will be drawn over time and between LEAs need to be done with great caution; although the same data source has been used with the same formulae, there is uncertainty about data accuracy, either at DfEE or LEA level as explained in Appendix 3.

As with other 'league tables', the significance of any differences between LEAs has also to be interpreted in terms of differences in social and economic disadvantage, differences in local demography and differences in LEA education policies and practices, especially over special schooling and the issuing of statements for pupils with special educational needs in ordinary schools. But at the same time, it must be remembered that all LEAs respond to the same legislation, regulations, circulars and Code of Practice, yet the outcome for pupils is so very different depending on where they live.

Special school placements

Based on the figures used in this study, the overall percentage of pupils in special schools is shown to have decreased from 1.49% in 1992 to 1.46% in 1993, to 1.45% in 1994 and to 1.40% in 1996. Small as the percentage decreases are, they reverse the increase from 1991 to 1992, from 1.47% to 1.49%. The small increase from 1991 to 1992 can be seen now, at least for the moment, as a 'blip' in the continuing trend across England towards inclusion of disabled pupils in ordinary schools. However, the figures give no indication of whether this trend is consistent across primary and secondary schools and different areas of special educational needs.

The 1993, 1994 and 1996 figures were also below the 1991 low point of 1.47%. The overall picture, as shown in the chart on page 5, is of a continuing downward trend in the percentage of pupils aged 5-15 years in special schools. This might be seen as surprising in view of the 1991-92 slight increase and wider assumptions about the pressures on ordinary schools to increase educational standards (examination league tables and national curriculum) and lower tolerance for pupils with significant difficulties in learning.

The levels of pupil percentages in special schools reported here are different from a recent figure released by the DfEE which indicate that 1.20% of pupils were in special schools in English LEAs in 1995 (DfEE, 1996). This difference arises from the use of a formula in this study which takes account of children moving across LEAs boundaries and confines analysis to children between 5 and 15.

There is other DfEE evidence of schools seeking additional resources through statements, with LEAs issuing more statements for children in ordinary schools (DfEE, 1996). But this increase is compatible with a decrease in more special school placements, if more statements are being issued for pupils in ordinary schools. Schools are also excluding more pupils who are going to off-site units (pupil referral units) or other ordinary schools (OFSTED, 1996). This would not be reflected in the special school percentages. One tentative interpretation of the trend shown in these data could be that, despite the pressures on schools to raise standards and the squeeze on resources, the decade long trend towards declining special school placement has been maintained. The figures

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are consistent with increased statements in and increased exclusions from ordinary schools.

As in the previous analyses, the national average conceals large differences between LEAs. **Barnsley** continued to be the LEA with the lowest percentage special school placements in 1993 and 1994, at 0.41% in 1993 and 0.43% in 1994. But, **Newham** had the lowest percentage in 1996 – 0.32%. **Hackney** had the highest percentage in special schools in 1993 at 2.89% and in 1994 2.67% while **Wandsworth** had the highest in 1996 at 2.67%. When looking at the four highest segregating LEAs for 1993 and 1994, it can be seen that the same four 'shuffle' for a position at the top (see Table 1). The same 'shuffling' takes place when we see a different group of four LEAs in Table 2 move around for position at the top of those with lowest segregation, except for Newham's jump to first place in 1996.

Several LEAs showed notable increases over two of the three year comparisons, but only **Sunderland** showed consistent increases over the three comparisons from 92-96. Similarly, several LEAs showed notable decreases over two of the three year comparisons, while **Islington**, **Nottinghamshire** and **Newham** showed consistent decreases over the three comparisons between 1992-96.

Statements in ordinary schools

This is the first analysis of the series which enables a comparison of the percentage of pupils with statements in the ordinary school. However, unlike the 1992 figures, the 1993 and 1994 ones could not be broken down into pupils with statements in special and ordinary classes.

These figures show that there is a steady increase in the percentage over the three years, from 42.1% in 1992, to 47.7% in 1993 to 51.7% in 1994 and to 58.5% in 1996. But, these averages also conceal wide differences between LEAs. **Cornwall** continued from 1992 to have the highest percentage, with 85.5% in 1993 and 86.7% in 1994. But, **Newham** had the highest percentage in 1996 with 89.2%. In 1993 and 1994, the LEA with the lowest percentage of pupils with statements in ordinary schools was **Nottinghamshire**, with 16.5% in 1993 and 19.6% in 1994. **Coventry** had the lowest percentage in 1996 with 28.1%.

Care needs to exercised in interpreting these figures as differences between LEAs in their statement issuing practices can influence the percentage of pupils with statements in ordinary schools. Low percentages do not necessarily reflect an LEA operating less inclusion of pupils with disabilities or difficulties, they can reflect LEA policies of more support in ordinary schools for pupils without statements. This can be seen in the case of **Nottinghamshire** which operates a practice of low statementing in the ordinary school, while reducing the percentage of pupils in special school – by 0.13 from 1992-93, by 0.14 from 1993-94 and by 0.19 from 1994-96 to a level of 0.85% of the total pupil population in 1996. This is 11th from the top in the table of the least segregating LEAs and is well below the national average of 1.40%.

However, many of the LEAs with low percentages of statements in ordinary schools do have greater than average percentages of their pupils in special schools. For instance, Table 6 shows that of the eight LEAs in 1994 with less than 30% of pupils with statements in ordinary schools, six had above average percentages of pupils in special schools, with three – **Coventry**, **Manchester** and **Liverpool** – in the top 20 segregating LEAs of Table 1.

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Monitoring changes in special provision nationally and across LEAs

The decision to report the results of this analysis was justified partly to continue the monitoring exercise, despite uncertainties about data accuracy, but also partly to highlight the critical need for better quality data about special provision and placements.

The monitoring exercise, of which this study is part, was started before the official reporting of attainment and other performance indicators in league tables for schools and LEAs as part of the implementation of the Education Reform Act 1988. It is this national reporting of educational performance information which has revealed a gap in the Government provision of accurate longitudinal statistics about changes in provision and placement for pupils with disabilities or learning difficulties. This small scale monitoring exercise has been one of few sources of national data.

It seems appropriate in view of the difficulties with this latest study and in the changing policy context, for Government to establish and support directly or indirectly a more systematic method for monitoring changes in special provision in England and Wales. This would be the right time to extend the coverage of this exercise beyond the overall data for special school placements and statements in ordinary schools to include data on different age groups, areas of special need and different kinds of ordinary school provision, such as, special classes and ordinary classes with support.

With the introduction of local government reorganisation, it would also be an ideal time to establish such a system to include the new and changing pattern of LEAs. If quality data is important for improving schooling and educational standards, then it is important for improving provision for all pupils.

References

DfEE (1996) *Special educational needs in England: January 1995*

OFSTED (1996) *Exclusions from secondary schools 1995-96.*

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Appendix 3

Method and data accuracy

Method used

These statistics were calculated by analysing data supplied by the Department for Education and Employment using the same formulae as in previous analyses. The data comes from Form 7 for all data, except children from one LEA attending another LEA's special school and children in an LEA's special school belonging to another LEA, which comes from Forms 8A and B. All the data relates to children between the ages of 5 and 15 years.

1. Percentage of pupils in special schools

An LEA's percentage of pupils in special schools was calculated by dividing the number of their pupils in special schools by the total number of pupils in the LEA. The result is the outcome of how these 2 figures are defined. In this analysis as in previous years, they were defined as follows :

Pupils in special schools:
This is the number of special school pupils for whom the LEA is responsible. It includes:

- children in the LEA's own special schools who belong to the LEA;
- children who belong to the LEA but attend another LEA's special school;
- children placed by the LEA in independent or non-maintained special schools (it includes Grant Maintained special schools in LEA area).

It excludes children in the LEA's special schools who belong to other LEAs.

Total number of pupils:
This is the total number of pupils for whom the LEA is responsible and who attend all maintained schools. It includes:

- pupils attending the LEA's mainstream nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools, including Grant Maintained Schools (GMS) and City Technology Colleges (CTCs) in the LEA area;
- and all pupils in special schools.

It excludes pupils who live in a LEA area but attend mainstream independent schools.

These figures do not take account of pupils from an LEA who go to an ordinary school in another LEA, nor pupils from another LEA who go to an ordinary school in the LEA.

2. Percentage of pupils with statements in ordinary schools

This is calculated by dividing the number of pupils in an LEA with statements in ordinary schools by the total number of pupils in the LEA with statements. This depends on how these figures are calculated, which is as follows:

Number of pupils with statements in ordinary schools
This is the total number of pupils with statements in ordinary schools. It includes those in special and ordinary classes:

- pupils attending the LEA's primary, middle and secondary schools with statements;
- pupils attending CTCs and GMSs in the LEA area with statements.

These figures do not take account of any pupils with statements from the LEA who go to an ordinary school in another LEA, nor pupils with statements from another LEA who go to an ordinary school in the LEA.

Total number of pupils in the LEA with statements
This includes pupils with statements:

- attending the LEA's ordinary schools;
- belonging to the LEA attending CTCs and GMS schools.

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- belonging to the LEA attending special schools maintained by another LEA;
- belonging to the LEA attending independent schools;
- belonging to the LEA attending non-maintained special schools;
- belonging to the LEA attending other LEA special schools

The figure excludes children in the LEA's special schools who belong to another LEA. It also assumes that pupils going out-LEA or coming-in LEA all have statements.

Data accuracy

As mentioned in the introduction and conclusion, there are some uncertainties about the accuracy of these data. The raw data were checked internally for large increases and decreases. By this method it was discovered that some of the data provided by the DfEE had been for the wider age range 2-19 years and not the 5-15 range used over the years in this study. The correct data was then acquired from the Department. Further checking showed that the import and export figures provided for 1996 were of a different order than for similar figures for 1993 and 1994. The DfEE had indicated that they had less confidence in these 1996 import/export figures. For example, the finding that **Waltham Forest** had an increase of 0.62% from 1994 to 1996 in special school placements can be attributed to a presumed error in the provided import/export figures.

It was not possible to check the DfEE figures against LEA recorded figures for the same period.

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